

The Youth Development Program sets the stage for the introduction and support of polocrosse to all ages

“The mission of the American Polocrosse Association is to offer educational programs which promote the sport of polocrosse for youth and adult players by providing the framework for domestic and international programs that further education on horsemanship and sportsmanship; and that ensure the safety of horse and rider.”

...And so, the Youth Development Program is the natural progression for grooming our youth to not only excel at polocrosse by learning habits of play, practice and conditioning, but also to encourage leadership, confidence, responsibility and respect. By encouraging young members to participate in the international test and exchange programs, the APA has developed a base of mature sportsman, prepared to proudly lead and represent the United States.

What will I or my child get out of the program?

One of our purposes is to allow APA and YDP members the opportunity to be assessed, selected, and coached to play on APA teams representing the United States in international competitions and the opportunity to improve ability by playing and living with hosts in other countries or hosting foreign players here.

What do I need to do for my child or myself to participate?

Look for the email blasts from the APA and on the APA website in late September for the 2016 Youth Development Team application. This is where all of the opportunities begin.

Are there opportunities for the parents and young adults to participate?

There are many opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate in clinics, inbound, and outbound tours. There is no experience necessary... even if you are not a “horse” person! The success of these programs is dependent on the support from volunteers... parents... young adults...

The Player Development Committee welcomes all interested folks!

The APA Player Development Program is designed to provide programs to improve all levels of play for all members of the APA.

It consists of three separate but connected programs:

Coaching Accreditation Program

Educates, trains, and certifies APA members through a multi-level accreditation program from beginner to advanced, in order to provide safe, effective and standardized coaching.

Domestic Development and Clinic Coordination Program

Provides administrative support for the domestic growth of polocrosse and to coordinate clinics of all levels for APA members and clubs as well as introductory clinics for non-members interested in learning more about the game.

International Tour Program

Provides a program that allows APA members the opportunity to apply, be identified, assessed, and; if selected, trained to play on APA teams representing the United States at international competitions.

TEAM USA is part of the PDP program and participants in the PDP International Tour Program are groomed for potential participation on World Cup teams.

If you have any questions concerning the Player Development Program, please feel free to contact Wade Liner, the chair of the Player Development Program, or Donna Ellis, the APA’s International Liaison.

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Player Development Program



What can the American Polocrosse Association’s Youth Development Program do for me?



Let's see what the PDP and its Youth Development Program and its teams accomplished in 2015...

In April, a coach, a U16 girl, and a U16 boy traveled to New South Wales, Australia to participate in the Albury Junior Classic. The Albury event consisted of a week of intense polocrosse clinics with world class players and horse trainers. It culminated in The Classic, the world's largest and most competitive junior tournament.



Also in May, three U21 player ambassadors and a manager were selected to travel to NSW, Australia, to play in three carnivals (tournaments). Their four week mission was to partake of the Australian lifestyle and polocrosse and bring positive habits back to share with us in the US.



Also in June, six U21 players and a manager were selected to travel to Ireland to participate in a social tour and play in two tournaments. They all enjoyed the Irish countryside and tours to many of the sights in Dublin.



In May, there was a clinic in North Carolina that was free for all YDP members. It was a weekend clinic that involved Zach Hulbert, the U16 coach, and Greg Russell, the PDP Chief Coach. All meals and clinics were covered by the YDP and PDP.



In June, fourteen U16 players were selected to participate in an inbound tour and test matches with a U16 team from NSW, Australia. The three week event was held in Harvest, Alabama, and Colorado Springs, Colorado. It was a successful exchange that provided learning opportunities from the Aussie way of play and horse training. It also opened the door for life long friendships with players from another culture.



In late December, eight U21 players, a coach, and a manager will travel to New Zealand to experience a Kiwi Christmas. The three week journey will include 2 carnivals and sights and experiences of New Zealand.



...These are the types of opportunities that are available should you decide to participate in the Youth Development Program.

